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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06961 02 OF 03 242239Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 IO-14 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 INC-01 SP-02 SS-15
SY-05 SYE-00 MCT-03 AID-05 /082 W

O R 241853Z AUG 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2093
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
JSMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
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[REDACTED] SECTION 2 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 6961

IF ANYBODY, ENCOURAGED JUDGE ANZOATEGUI TO ORDER THE RAIDS.
A NUMBER OF OBSERVERS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE JUDGE WAS NOT
DRIVEN BY ORDERS FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE GOA--
PARTICULARLY SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HERE HAS SINCE GONE ON THE
PUBLIC RECORD THRICE TO CONFIRM THAT THE GOA WOULD FULFILL
ITS COMMITMENT TO THE IAHR AND ALLOW IT "LIBERTY" IN ITS ON-SITE
INVESTIGATION. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME GOA ELEMENTS
HOPED AT LEAST TO DISCOURAGE TESTIMONY BY ARGENTINES TO THE
IAHRC AND PERHPAS EVEN TO DERAILED THE VISIT ITSELF.
HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCES, OF MIXED RELIABILITY, HAVE TOLD
US THAT THEY BELIEVE PHONE CALLS AND CABLES TO THE OAS IN
WASHINGTON ARE BEING BLOCKED BY THE GOA - A REPORT THAT
REMAINS UNCONFIRMED. THIS SAME SOURCE STATES THE GOA SEIZED
A NUMBER OF DEPOSITIONS BY RELATIVES OF THOSE NOW DETAINED
DESCRIBING THE TORTURES THE DETAINED ONES HAD EXPERIENCED.
OUR SOURCES OF THIS REPORT ARE CONCERNED THAT THIS COULD

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: 200000044

PAGE 02 BUENOS 06961 02 OF 03 242239Z

EXPOSE BOTH THOSE MAKING THE DEPOSITIONS AND THE INDIVIDUALS IN JAUKL TO RETALIATION BY SECURITY FORCES. THESE SOURCES' FEARS ARE UNDERSTANABLE, HOWEVER WEE FEEL THAT THERE PROBABLY IS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY HEIGHTENED DANGER TO EITHER THE DETAINEES OR THEIR RELATIVES AT THIS POINT. THE SECURITY FORCES PROBABLY KNEW OF THE DEPOSITIONS BEFORE THEY WERE SEIZED, AS WE STRONGLY SUSPECT SECURITY FORCES PENETRATED THE ORGANIZATION IN QUESTION. YET THEY DID NOT ACT ON THIS INFORMATION, AND IN OUR OPINION THEY PROBABLY WILL NOT ACT, ABSENT A MAJOR RETROCESSION IN GOA POLICY WHICH SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE INEVITABILITY ATHT REPORTS OF TORTURE - LIKE THESE IN THE DEPOSITIONS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC, INCLUDING TO THE IAHRC. SHOULD THE COMPLAINTS REGISTERED FALL INTO THE HANDS OF PRISON AUTHORITIES HOWEVER THERE EXISTS THE POSSIBILITY OF ON-THE-SPOT REPRISALS.

OUT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS SOURCES HAVE FOUND ONE BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE RAIDS. ONE TOLD US "FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIX MONTHS ARGENTINE MEDIA IS TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. USUALLY IT JUST IGNORES THE ISSUE." MORE CLOSE TO THE POINT, HOWEVER, IN OUR JUDGEMENT THE PUBLIC DEBATE HERE HAS CONCERNED ITSELF WITH ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY AND NOT THE SUBSTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. WE HAVE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT RADIO STATIONS HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOA'S PRESS OFFICE THAT IN THEIR REPORTING THEY SHOULD "EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXCESSES, ARGUING THAT THIS WAS A HYPOTHESIS THAT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN REFUTED BY FACTS." (SEE BUENOS AIRES 6728.)

4. GOA CRIES FOUL: WE ARE REPORTING ELSEHWERE THE GOA'S REACTION TO STATEMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN. WE NOTE HERE THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOA STIRRED ALWAYS STRONG NATIONALIISTIC SENTIMENT HERE IT IS NOT SEEKING TO IGNITE IT. THE AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD BY AJA ESPIL THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA

PAGE 03 BUENOS 06961 02 OF 03 242239Z

ORDERED "A LID" ON THE REACTION TO SPOKESMAN RESTON'S DECLARATIONS, AND WE HAVE HEARD FROM PRESS SOURCES THAT THEY RECEIVED GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EFFECT. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULT OF THE GOA'S PUBLIC EXCHANGES WITH THE USG WAS THAT IT THRICE WENT ON THE PUBLIC RECORD COMMITTING ITSELF TO RECEIVE THE OOAS IAHRC AND TO GIVING THE COMMISSION BROAD LIBERTY TO CONDUCT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: 200000044

ITSELF WHILE HERE. THE MOST RECENT DECLARATION TO THIS END WAS MADE BY INTERIO MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY ON AUGUST 22. THE MINISTER ALSO MADE SIMILAR REMARKS ON AUGUST 16 AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE WENT ON THE RECORD WHEN ITS RELEASED ITS AUGUST 20 NOTE OF PROTEST TO US. ON AUGUST 22, HARGUINDEGUY SUGGESTED THAT THE IAHRC WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT EVERYWHERE, INCLUDING MILITARY BASES AND POLICE FACILITIES. BUT HE ALSO REPORTEDLY STATED VISITS TO CIVILIAN JAILS WILL REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, A CONDITION WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE WE ARE NOT YET ABLE TO MEASURE. (BUENOS AIRES 6810)

5. BISHOPS TAKE STAND: THE PAPAL NUNCIO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AUGUST 23 THAT ALL THE BISHOPS IN ARGENTINA HAVE SIGNED AND SUBMITTED A STRONG PETITION TO PRESIDENT VIDELA SEEKING A RECTIFICATION OF THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

6. (7) HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS SPOTS ---

- GRANDE FREED. ON AUGUST 15TH, JOSE EMILIO GRANDE, EDITOR OF "LA OPINION" OF RAFAELA, WAS FREED AND CLEARED OF ALL CHARGES STEMMING FROM HIS PAPER'S REPORTING ON MONTONERO MARIO FIRMENICH. THIS FOLLOWS THE EARLIER RELEASE OF SANTA FE EDITOR RIOBO CAPUTO UNDER THE SAME CHARGES.

- JUDGE REQUESTS INFORMATION ON DISAPPEARED. JUDGE LUIS MENDEZ HAS REQUESTED THAT ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF JORGE ALBERTO SCHREIBER, A STUDENT WHO DISAPPEARED IN MAY 1977, BE REPORTED TO HIS OFFICE. THE REQUEST, WHICH

PAGE 04 BUENOS 06961 02 OF 03 242239Z

APPEARED IN "LA RAZON," "LA CRONICA" AND THE "BUENOS AIRES HERALD," WAS ONE OF SEVERAL RECENT INCIDENTS WHEN A JUDGE HAS PUBLICLY SOUGHT INFORMATION ON A DISAPPEARED.

- ARRESTS. ITALIAN TERRORIST GIOVANNI VENTURA WAS CAPTURED IN LA PLATA ON AUGUST 12TH. (VENTURA ESCAPED IN JANUARY 1979, WHILE BEING HELD UNDER HOUSE ARREST FOR A 1969 BOMBING IN MILAN).

ON AUGUST 11TH POLICE ARRESTED HORACIO FRANCISCO. FRANCISCO ALLEGEDLY TOOK PART IN THE 1973 KIDNAPPING OF LUCHINO REVELLI BEAUMONT, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF FIAT FRANCE.

A FORMER BODYGUARD OF LABOR LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL, OSVALDO RUANO, WAS ARRESTED ON AUGUST 13 ON NARCOTICS CHARGES.

- TV PERSONALITY MENACED. THE POLICE DETONATED A BOMB LEFT

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1979BUENOS06961

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06961 03 OF 03 242024Z
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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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[REDACTED] SECTION 3 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 6961

OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT OF ARGENTINE COMEDIAN TATO BORES, ON AUGUST 10TH. BORES IS KNOWN FOR HIS TART COMMENTARY ON POLITICS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS.
- CASE GROUP SPEAKS. FREEDOM HOUSE INSTITUTE RECENTLY SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT VIDELA, CALLING FOR THE "REAPPEARANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED".
- POLITICAL PARTIES' PETITION. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, AND PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAVE PETITIONED THE GOA ON BEHALF OF ENRIQUE PERELMUTER, WHO HAS BEEN UNDER ARREST FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS.
- MISSING CHILDREN LISTED. ON AUGUST 14TH, THE COMMISSION FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES, MADE PUBLIC A LIST OF 47 ARGENTINE AND URUGUAYAN CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING SINCE NOVEMBER 1974. THE ORGANIZATION OPERATES OUT OF SAO PAULO, BRAZIL.
AN AP STORY IN LA NACION SAID ARTURO ACOSTA OF CHILE, WHOSE DAUGHTER DISAPPEARED IN BUENOS AIRES IN SEPTEMBER 1976,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: 200000044

PAGE 02 BUENOS 06961 03 OF 03 242024Z

WAS SEEKING THE CUSTODY OF TWO GRANDCHILDREN WHO ARE LIVING IN PLATA, WITH ARGENTINE RELATIVES. THE STORY ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN "LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS" OF SANTIAGO, CHILE.

- NEWS CLAMP. THE COMMISSION OF RELATIVES OF PERSONS MISSING OR DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, STATED THAT NONE OF BUENOS AIRES' NEWSPAPERS WOULD PUBLISH A PETITION DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS HELD WITHOUT BEING CHARGED.

- JAIL BREAK. ON AUGUST 12TH TEN WOMEN ESCAPED FROM THE SANTA EUFRASIA PRISON IN SANTA FE. NAMES AND DETAILS AND WHAT THE WOMEN WERE BEING HELD FOR WERE NOT RELEASED.

- COUPLE FREED. ON AUGUST 10 A JUDGE CLEARED ALBERTO REAL AND HIS WIFE ROSA GARCIA OF THE CHARGE OF POSSESSING MONTONERO LITERATURE. SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT A COUPLE ACCUSED OF BEING IN POSSESSION OF MONTONERO LITERATURE WAS CLEARED OF CHARGES BY A FEDERAL JUDGE BECAUSE THE RECORDS OF THEIR DETENTION WERE "CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTORY." THE ACCUSED WERE MOSCOW-BORN ARGENTINE CITIZEN ALBERTO REAL AND HIS WIFE, BOTH ADMITTEDLY COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS.

- MERLO COMPLAINTS. "NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS" REPORTED THAT THE DAILY "LOS PRINCIPIOS" OF THE TOWN OF MERLO, IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES, COMPLAINED TO PRESIDENT VIDELA THAT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES HAD CLOSED DOWN ITS PRINTING SHOP "AS A REPRISAL" FOR THE PAPER'S CRITICISM OF "BAD MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION."

- BAHIA BLANCA DISAPPEARED LISTED. A PAID AD IN LA PRENSA LISTED 32 INDIVIDUALS MISSING IN THE AREA OF BAHIA BLANCA SINCE 1976. IT WAS SIGNED BY TWO WOMEN WHO GAVE THEIR OWN NAMES AND IDENTITY CARD NUMBER. (ON AUGUST 5, LOS ANDES OF MENDOZA PUBLISHED A PAID AD SUBMITTED BY THE MENDOZA BRANCHES OF THE MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE, ARGENTINE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN

PAGE 03 BUENOS 06961 03 OF 03 242024Z

RIGHTS LISTING 21 INDIVIDUALS MISSING SINCE 1973.)

- GUN INCIDENT PROKES CIVIL TRIAL. CONVICCION REPORTED THE SUPREME COURT DECIDED A CIVILIAN COURT, AND NOT MILITARY JUSTICE, MUST TRY ARMY CAPTAIN HECTOR ALBERTO REYNOSO, WHO DURING A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WHILE HE WAS DRIVING HIS PRIVATE CAR, PULLED OUT A GUN AND FIRED A SHOT IN THE AIR.

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1979BUENOS06961

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 6
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

- IACHR DOUBTED. CONVICCION EDITOR HUGO EZEQUIEL LEZAMA, IN A FRONT PAGE STORY, SPOKE OF PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AS "AN IDLE RITE. NOTABLE IN WASHINGTON AND GOSSIPS IN NEW YORK ASSERT THAT THE REPORT IS ALREADY WRITTEN AND IS UNFAVORABLE TO US."

- NOVAK MASS. OVER 500, ACCORDING TO LA PRENSA, AND "NEARLY 300", ATTENDED A MASS HELD IN QUILMES ON SUNDAY AUGUST 12 FOR DETAINEES AND DISAPPEARED." WHEN OVER, THE POLICE PREVENTED A "SILENT MARCH" DEMONSTRATION. (MSGR. NOVAK'S INTENDED MASS WAS REPORTED IN THE EMBASSY'S LAST HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY.)

- AMNESTY SCORES HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS RAIDS. THE HERALD REPORTED THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN LONDON HAD ASKED GOA "TO STOP HARASSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANZATIONS" IN ARGENTINA. THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT SAID: "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BELIEVES THAT THE (POLICE) RAID MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO PREVENT OR DISCOURAGE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND RELATIVES OF MISSING AND DETAINED PERSONS FROM PRESENTING INFORMATION TO A FORTHCOMING MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN STATES SCHEDULED TO VISIT ARGENTINA..."

- ALFONSIN'S SPEECH. ACCORDING TO LA RAZON, LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR OF CORDOBA QUOTED RADICAL LEADER RAUL ALFONSIN AS SAYING:

"...WE HAVE BEEN MARKED BY VIOLENCE, FIRST BY THE EXTREME LEFT WING, THEN BY THE SUBSEQUENT REACTION WE ALL KNOW. BUT WE MUST END THIS SITUATION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS INVITED THE OAS IAMC AND IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT IT IS

READY TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS IN THIS RESPECT."

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PAGE 04 BUENOS 06961 03 OF 03 242024Z

- MRS. PERON TO SHUM THE COMMISSION? IN BAHIA BLANCA, LA NUEVA PRONVNCA PRINTED THE RUMOR THAT MRS. PERON, OF HER OWN WILL, HAD DECIDED NOT TO RECEIVE THE IAHRC "NOSERS" ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEIR VISIT "AFFECTS OUR DIGINITY AND SOVEREIGNTY."

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED